the United States, and ought to be resisted at evhazard, and to any extremity. olved, That the Governor be requested to point - number of delegates to meet at Nash-

ville in Southern convention, in June next.

THE NATIONAL ERA. WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 21, 1850.

TIP DEBATES IN CONGRESS -- We have no room this week for notices of the speeches of Messrs. Fitch, Root, and Mann, in reply to the numerous speeches in support of the claims of Slavery. We shall attend to them in our next.

THE CRISIS .- May we not ask our friends to recew their exertion for the extension of the | that Congress has power to grant what they pray circulation of the Era in this important crisis. Never before was it so vital to have the Public correctly and fully informed of the movements in Congress. Of the four political papers issued in this place, the Era is the only one which presents grant its prayer, they may do the same thing, beand advocates the views and claims of the non- cause they regard the prayer unreasonable or inslaveholders of the country on this great question expedient. Refusal to receive in the latter case

No. 155 of THE ERA.—Those subscribers | right of petition on one side presupposes the duty who do not file their Era, and have copies of No. 155 on hand, will confer a fovor by remailing them to this office.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

WILLIAM W. WOODWOLTH, administrator of William Woodworth, decrused, is now petitioning Congress to extend his Parent for a Planing Muc' in reranother long term. All those opposed to this monopoly, and the injustice of the REPEATED EXTENSIONS of that Patent, are re quested to for and their remonstrances against the same to their respective Scuntors and Representatives in Congress, without any dealy. Feb. 14-3t

DEBATE IN THE SENATE ON THE 11TH. THE RIGHT OF PETITION-THE DISSOLU-TION OF THE UNION.

We present on our fourth page some account of the Debate in the Senate on the 11th of February, the National Legislature was concerned, the right on the question of receiving a petition offered by of petition. Mr. Hale on a former day, in relation to a dissolution of the Union. The petition set forth that the Federal Constitution, in supporting Slavery, itself. It has assumed authority to abridge the violated the Divine law; that the experiment of uniting Slavery and Freedom under one Government had failed; and closed by respectfully asking "Congress to propose, without delay, some role struggle for the restoration of this sacred plan for the immediate and peaceful dissolution right, now pour contempt upon his memory, by of the American Union."

The petition was respectful in its language and tone. The signers to it did not ask Congress to distally the Prior but to men ore some alon for its dissolution, evidently under the impression that has no power to grant their prayer, we should like such a movement was within its constitutional powers. Is this impression correct?

Article 5th of the Constitution provides as follows

"Congresss, whenever two-thirds of either House shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution; or, on the application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing amendments, which in either case shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as parts of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by Con-ventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by Congress; provided that no amendments which may be made prior to the year 1808 shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no State, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate."

The signers to this petition have doubtless noticed that in the proceedings of Legislative bodies it is common for a member to move to amend a bill or resolution, by striking out all after the enacting clause, or the word resolved, and inserting a substitute; and, observing that, by the Constitution, Congress, by a majority of two-thirds in each House, is empowered to propose amendments thereto, they may have inferred that it could prose to amend by submitting a substitute, contemplating, for example, the formation of two

No Senator adverted to this possibility; none seemed to think of inquiring how far Congress could go in proposing amendments. All who opposed the reception of the petition assumed that it prayed Congress to abolish the Union-a thing so manifestly and wholly beyond its power, that it was right to reject the paper at once. This was the assumption made by Mesars. Davis and Webster of Massachusetts-an assumption utterly groundless, as the petition asked simply that Congress would propose a plan of dissolution. Is this manifestly and wholly beyond its power? It is a question with two sides-it admits of argument. The language of the article respecting amendments, quoted above, raises a presumption, at least, that Congress, by the requisite majorities, is competent to submit such a proposition. What, then, was the dictate of commo sense, in relation to the petition? To receive it; and, if no disposition prevailed to act upon it in any way, to lay it upon the table; but, if otherwise, to refer it to an appropriate committee, with suitable instructions. Should the Senate decide that it had not the power to execute the request of the petition, that decision would be a good reason for denying the prayer, but no reason at all for refusing to receive the petition.

Could we be surprised at any notions put forth in Congress, we should be surprised at the notions of several learned Senators concerning the Right of Petition. Judge Underwood defined two imitations, as he called them, upon this right-1st, Want of power in the body petitioned; 2d, Exemption of the persons petitioning from the operation of the exercise of power petitioned for. Where Congress had no right to grant the prayer of a petition, it ought not to receive it; nor ought it to receive a petition praying for action or nonaction, where neither could affect the petitioners On one or the other of these grounds he would refuse to receive nearly all the petitions touching the Slavery Question. For example, he would reject one, praying the abolition of the inter-State slave trade, in consequence of a want of power to act on that subject; and another, praying the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, because such abolition could in no way affect the petitioners residing out of the Dis-

These would be reasons to urge against grant ing the prayer of a petition, but no reasons at all for refusing to hear it. To refuse to hear, is a violation or abridgement of the right of petition; and is not demanded by the rights or dignity of Congress. To refuse to grant, after hearing, is no invasion of the right of petition, is a sufficient safeguard of the rights and dignity of Congress and of the provisions of the Constitution. The examples referred to show the unreasonableness of any such limitation, limitations unknown to the Constitution, and never recognised by any Government. In regard to the inter-State slave trade, Public Opinion is not settled. It is a subject admitting of apparently strong arguments for and against. Mr. Underwood doubtless denies the power, but it would cost him an elaborate argument to demonstrate that it does not exist.

Then as to Slavery in the District of Colum bia: its abolition, the slaveholders of the States say, would be a blow at the stability of their peculiar institution: although not citizens here their rights, they insist, would be indirectly damaged. On the other hand, the People of the North say, that as Slavery exists in this District by act of Congress, a Congress in which they are | men of the South might be constituted to inquire represented, they are involved in the legislative support of what they believe to be wrong. Besides, they say the existence of Slavery here gives an undue advantage to the supporters of Slavery, annoys the Representatives from the free States, and fetters their freedom. For these and other reasons they insist upon its abolition, asserting that it would exert a most favorable influence on their rights and interests.

Now, here are conflicting demands, conflicting interests-but Mr Underwood, without paying the least attention to them, says that petitions concerning Slavery in the District from citizens | Disunion in relation to

beyond its limits ought not to be received, because the existence or abolition of Slavery here offects nobody but those living here!

one view of the Constitution, I have no right to

refuse a hearing to an opposite view, respectfully

presented. Senators and Representatives are not

above the People. When respectable citizens sub-

mit to them a petition, the presumption is that

they believe their request reasonable, and believe

for. Senators and Representatives may hold a dif-

ferent opinion-but this is no reason for refusing to

entertain the petition. If they may refuse to receive

it because they believe they have no power to

of petition, than it would be in the former. The

lieves it proper. Very well : let the former first

hear, then consider, and then state to the peti-

tioner why he declines to grant his prayer. Sen-

ators believe ther have no nower to do a certain

act; certain petitioners, believing that they

have, ask them to do it. What is the plain duty

of the former? "To hear, to consider, and then to

state to the petitioner their decision, with the

We know that such is the opinion of the great

majority of the American People. Such was the

view of John Quincy Adams, which, through

many years of toil and persecution, he continually

urged upon the House of Representatives, until at

Against this view, the Senate of the United

right of petition. Messrs. Davis and WEBSTER,

Senators from a State, whose most intrepid son

won the warm sympathies of the world by his he-

to know what John Quincy Adams contended

We hope the People will observe the position

lution of the Union, but they know that the best

way to strengthen the popular feeling against it,

is to observe scrupulously, sacredly, all the guar-

anties of rights in the Constitution. They may

in all this they will find reasons, not for refusing

to receive petitions on the subject, but for sternly re

jecting their prayer. They will recognise no au-

thority in an American Senate to break down one

part of the Constitution on the pretext of pre-

THE SOUTHERN CONVENTION.

The project of a Southern Convention fails to

command the unanimous support of the South.

The R chmond (Va) Whig is evidently hostile to

committee on the subject in the Virginia Legis-

lature, which merely recommends the appoint-

The same paper says that the press of all par

"What, then, is the Convention to be called

ing the movement tell us what is the object? Un

til satisfied on this point, the State should hesi

tate a long time before committing itself, by the hands of a few men, to abide whatsoever course they

"If dissolution is not aimed at, we do not clear

ly see the necessity for the Convention. It could

effect no more perfect unanimity of sentiment

than exists at present, and could not express South

ern sentiment more strongly than it has already

been done by the Legislatures of most of the

"If dissolution is the object of the Convention.

we submit that the State of North Carolina wil

hardly be committed to the project by a set of

irresponsible delegates. They must be clothed

with more authority and go under more solemi

sanctions than can be conferred by the usual

hasty process of court-house and cross-roads

The National Intelligencer, which is laboring

nanfully for the preservation of the Union, con-

tains, in its edition of the 16th, extracts from

twenty-three prominent Southern newspapers,

in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia,

Kentucky, and Missouri, expressing the most de-

voted attachment to the Union, and hostility to

all projects of Disunion. From our own exchanges

For one, we shall not condemn in advance th

Southern Convention. It will be time enough to

denounce it as treasonous, when it shall have con

mitted some overt act. That the People of any

section of the country have a perfect right to

meet in Convention to consult upon their suppos

ed grievances, and the appropriate remedies for

them, no man in his senses will deny. And we

have no objection that such Convention should

calculate the value of the Union. Americans are

a calculating People. We know nothing so sacred

that it should command our blind veneration.

The Union we would cherish, not as an end, but a

means-a means for the establishment of Justice,

Peace, Tranquillity, for the extension and pres

ervation of Free Institutions. Patting in these

respects, it would be worthless. We do not be

lieve it has thus failed-it has subserved these

high ends, imperfectly it may be, but yet better

than any other political organization that could

have been formed in this country; and we hope

that it will be rendered still more efficacious for

the accomplishment of these noble purposes. This

is our calculation. Were it not so, did we believe

with certain citizens of the North that it was sub-

versive of Justice and Liberty, or with certain

citizens of the South that it was used as a mere

instrument for the aggrandizement of one section

at the expense of another, and the overthrow of

State rights, we should be a Disunionist in prin-

ciple, and stand prepared to avow and defend our

Let the value of the Union be calculated-

have no fear of the result. Let the Southern

Convention be held-let the wisest and best citi-

zens of the South meet to take into consideration

the question whether the substantial interests of

that section and of the whole country can be

promoted by a dissolution of the compact that now

binds the States in one Republic. Let them cal-

culate the value of the Union, and the conse-

into the relations of the Union, to

The Cause of Peace.

Franquillity.

The Cause of Free Trade.

quences of Disunion. A committee of the ablest

The Growth of Civilization on this Continent,

Its exemption from Foreign intrigue and inter-

The Establishment of Justice and Domestic

The Maintenance and Extension of Free I

And also into the probable consequences

The Power and Wealth of the Republic.

in the South we could add many more.

Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennesse

The Greensborough (N. C.) Patriot says-

Why do not the individuals who are press

ties in Western Virginia is out against the move

ment of delegates by the People, and does not pro

t but accomingness in the modified re

pose to clothe them with any authority

The Raleigh (N. C.) Register asks-

may think proper to adopt!

serving integrity of the whole.

reasons therefor.

Members of Congress are but agents of the Pec ple. Their position does not release them from itary Establishments that would then become ne the obligation of giving reasons for their acts-Nothing is more common than differences of opin-

divided States.

The augmentation of Executive Power at the ion in relation to the powers conferred by the expense of Popular Sovereignty that would be Federal Constitution. These differences are lerequired in the new Governments. gitimate subjects of discussion. Because I hold

The Disposition of the Territories of the United States. The Extradition of Fugitives from Service or

Labor The Permanence of Slavery.

The Question of the Navigation of the Missis-

And divers other important matters. It might not be amiss to extend their inquiries a little farther, and ask, how the question of the annexation of the Canadas to the Northern Confederacy, and its relations to the free British West Indies, would be affected; and how, on the other hand, an attempted annexation of Cuba by the Southern Confederacy, without any naval

power, would be viewed by Great Britain. would be no greater abridgement of the right We repeat, it would gratify us exceedingly to see all these important Questions fully and candidly examined by a Committee of the ablest of receiving on the other. A Senator believes Statesmen of the South, appointed by the Nashthe thing asked for improper-the petitioner beville Convention. Their report, we have no doubt would do more to settle the agitation in the South in regard to the Union, than indignant Senatorial denunciations of the schemes of Dissolution, and patriotic Senatorial rejections of petitions for Dissolution.

The very best thing that can be done to perpetuate the Union is, coully and carefully to calcu-

BLUNDERS.

late its value.

Members of Congress do not always speak by the book. We have sometimes wondered at the coolness with which they make the most unfounded statements.

last he procured the abrogation of the twenty-first rule, and reestablished, so far as that branch of Mr. Inge of Alabama, a few days since, while speculating on the advantages to the South of a dissolution of the Union, fell into several gross mistakes. A few we shall advert to, as mere spe-States, three members alone excepted, has planted

"Our exports," he says, "are now about double those of the North."

The following table from official returns will show the value of exports from the free States and slave States in the year ending June 30th

Dom. Produce. Ferly, Produce. Total virtually charging him with folly. For, if a legislative body may refuse to consider, to hear, to Free States \$56,727,716 \$19,387,725 \$76,115,441 Slave States 76,176,405 1,744,590 77,998,995 receive petitions from the People, because it In-relation to the total rules of exports the The es a desime Wirbens chusiderstion that it two sections are nearly equal. As it regards the exports of domestic produce, more than two-fifths is from the free States, less than three-fifths from the slaveholding. What becomes of Mr. Inge's statement, that the South exports double the of these gentlemen, and of the other Senators from the free States. They do not want a Dissoamount exported by the North?

Again: of the exports credited to the South forty millions' worth is set down to the account of Louisiana; but at least one-half of this comes from the free States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, doubt whether Congress has the right to propose Wisconsin, and Iowa, a large portion of the proany plan of Dissolution, and would regard with duce of which is sent to New Orleans for exportabhorrence any attempt on its part to do so, but ation; so that the value of exports of domestic produce of the free States is really twenty millions greater than that of similar exports from the slaveholding States.

The same enlightened gentleman also remarks "The Federal Government raises annually from imports more than thirty millions of dollars which go into the National Treasury; and indirectly an immense sum is levied upon the South, for the benefit of Northern manufacturers. This revenue is expended chiefly in the North; and while the South pays tribute to this Government, she is scarcely permitted to share in the largess.'

In the first place, as the North numbers about twelve millions of consumers, while the and as two-thirds of the white people, who are by far the heaviest consumers, roulds in the North, it is obvious that the North pays, relatively, the larger portion of the burdens imposed in the shape of customs. And in the second place, it is sheer folly to assert that this revenue is expended chiefly in the North; for of the whole thirty millions, three millions are expended in support of the various Departments of the Government in Washington, and of the Diplomatic Intercourse of the country; nearly twenty millions in the support of the military and naval establishments; and three millions for miscellaneous objects, in which the States are equally interested; while the rest goes to the payment of the interest on Florida, by expelling the Indians, and in the Cass voted yea. prosecution of a war with Mexico, brought about by Southern influences.

These are mere specimens of the reckless statements which are so common in the Halls of Congress, that they have ceased to excite the surprise of the experienced members of that body.

VIOLENT RESISTANCE THREATENED WITHIN THE HALLS OF CONGRESS.

The threats of violent resistance to the passage of any act, which the pro-slavery men may deem unfavorable to their interests, is quite common in the Halls of Congress.

Mr. Davis of Mississippi thought it best, if Northern men persisted in their policy, that the conflict should begin " here and now "-that is, in

the Senate and House of Representatives. Mr. Clingman, alluding to some suggestion made as he said in a Northern paper, that members determined to disorganize the House should be expelled, invited the Northern members to try their hands at such a measure, admonished them that this was slaveholding territory-"our own territory "-and that such an attempt would not leave a quorum to do business!

Some other Southern member-we forget his name-intimated that, in the event of a conflict. in a few moments three hundred armed men would make their appearance in the Hall of the

Mr. Inge of Alabama was even more palpable From the closing paragraph of his speech, delivered the other day in the House, we extract the following open invocation to civil war:

"From this consideration alone, the present admission of California would meet with determined and unmeasured resistance. Will the representatives of the North attempt, by the power of numbers, to outrage the Constitution and degrade the South by the admission of this Territory as a State, without the offer of some equivalent? I suggest to them to remember that we are sworn support the Constitution, and could scarcely sit in tame acquiescence and witness its open and shameful violation. The attempted consummation of such an act would be the overthrow of the Constitution, which the people we represent would resist by force of arms. We are here as the representatives of the people, but are our obligations to the Constitution and the South less than those of other individual citizens, who, in the aggregate, are the people? We assume addi tional obligations when we come as representatives; but are we relieved from those which rested upon us as private citizens? My individual opinion is, that f the Southern people ought to resist a measure of aggression, ofter its consummation, we here are un der the same or a higher obligation to resist its con-summation. These suggestions are made, not in the nature of threats or menace. I do not underrate the firmness of the North; as a matter of discretion, it is always proper to assume that your an-tagonist is firm, even if the fact be doubtful. But the course proper to be pursued in any and every event is for the determination of Southern members. I am willing to suggest, and if my course is not approved, to follow any path of honor which may be pointed out by those who are older and wiser. I trust that we shall stand together as one man, and present our breasts as

the shield of the Constitution If this mean anything beyond mere bravado, it is a direct call upon the Southern representatives

Peace, Trade, Social connection between the be reasonable men enough in Congress from both majority of the people, and invalid by a minority,

THE COMPROMISE OF MR. CLAY.

The compromise resolutions of Mr. Clay are generally repudiated by the Whig press. His motives are commended, his courage, patriotism, and ability, are admired, but his plan finds scarcely any favor. The Whig papers of Ohio are nearly all decided in their condemnation of it. The Ohio State Journal, of Columbus,

"The resolutions of Mr. Clay are producing a profound impression on the public mind. They will be read with interest throughout the length and breadth of this land. There can be no mistake about their reception in Ohio. With all their regard for Mr. Clay, with all their admiration for his splendid career as a statesman, and his long and valuable services as a Whig, our citizens do not endorse the sentiments of his resolutions. They say this 'more in sorrow than in but say it they must, though it severs ties long existing and dearly cherished." Preceding these remarks, says the Cincinnation

Gozatte . "We find a call for a public meeting of the Whigs of Franklin county, and of the State, to be held at Columbus, on Monday evening next, 'for the purpose of obtaining an interchange of opinion. and an expression of sentiment in reference to the present and proposed action of Congress on the subject of slavery, and especially in reference to the resolutions recently introduced by Mr. Clay on that subject in the Senate of the United States; o utter the voice of the people of Ohio, at this

mportant crisis.' That is right. The people of the free States have been reposing quietly, in the belief that their representatives in Congress would carry out their oft-expressed determination on this question. Now, that they see some of them giving way, and others entertaining insidious plans of compromise, they will gird themselves again for the conflict. Craven-hearted representatives may waver, but the people who sent them here have no fear of slaveholding and disunion conventions. We do not believe that they will abandon the ground they have taken,

whatever the consequences may be. It can be no degradation to the South, to preserve by act of Congress freedom in free Territories. It will be an infamy to the North, should they suffer free to be converted into slave Territory. It can be no degradation to the South to apply the Jefferson Ordinance of 787 to Free Soil; it will be a perpetual degradation to the North, should it suffer itself to be driven by intimidation to an abandonment of the

GENERAL CASS AND THE RIGHT OF PETITION.

We hope our readers will pay some attention to the report of the debate in the Senate on the Right of Petition, published on our fourth page-The course of General Cass is grossly inconsist ent. On the 6th, an account of the proceedings of a meeting in North Carolina, remonstrating against action by the United States designed to limit slavery, and threatening disunion in a certain contingency, was presented by Mr. Mangum. The usage of the Senate has been, to raise the question of reception on all papers touching the question of slavery, except where emanating from State Legislatures and to lay that question upon the table. Among the most rigid in the observance of the usage is General Cass. Mr. Hale, although opposed to the usage, deemed the occasion offered by the presentation of these proceedings a fit one for testing the impartiality of the Senate towards North and South, and accordingly raised the question of reception, and moved to lay that question on the table. The motion was lost, Messra. Douglas and Bradbury alone voting for

subject, coming from the free States, with his ned reverence for the South, voted to receive these proceedings from North Carolina The very next day Mr. Hale presented the report of the proceedings of an association of Friends, in Philadelphia, containing the follow-

"We however ask you, possessing, as you do the legislative power, to prevent the increase of this dreadful evil, by the non-admission of new States into the Union, or the non-erection of new Territories whose constitutions or organic laws not contain express prohibitions to the establishment or the continuance of slavery within

Here was a petition asking the Senate not to act in any way for the extension of slavery. the public debt, the most of which has been con- The question of reception was raised, and on the tracted in the attempt to please the people of motion to lay that question on the table, General

Thus, one day he votes to receive the proceedings of a North Carolina meeting, praying Congress not to act against the extension of slavery. and the next day he votes against receiving the proceedings of a Philadelphia meeting, praying Congress not to act for the extension of slavery.

A very consistent, fair-minded, impartial states-

man, is he not? Mr. Hale thus exposed this gross inconsistency: "The honorable Senator, in the discrimination which he applies to papers to be received by the Senate, says, if they ask that which we have pal-

pably no power to grant, they should not be re-ceived; but he says, if any of the citizens of this country apprehend action on the part of Congress they think will be dangerous and detrimental, they have a right to remonstrate against that action, and we are bound to receive that re-monstrance. How frail, sir, is human memory! On Thursday last, I had the honor to present precisely such a paper as that to this body—the remonstrance of some members of the association of Friends-coming here, and not asking for any action on the part of Congress, but simply, in the words of the honorable Senator from Michigan, remonstrating against action which they antici-pated—the admission of any more slave States, or he extension of slavery into the Territories.

Mr. Cass. The object of that petition was to the Union without a prohibition of slavery.
"Mr. Hale. No, sir, that was not it. It was a

petition against action, and comes within the definition laid down by the honorable Senator from Michigan. I appeal to every Senator who hears me, if that is not the case? It is a difference of words between us; but I ask the common sense words between us; but I ask the common sense understanding of the whole people if it is not? "Mr. Cass. Was not the object to prevent California, or new other new State, from being admitted into the Union without such a prohibition? It was asking us to do what we could not that is all. I have not another word to say. Mr. Hale. It was remonstrating against ac

There was another rule General Cass laid down, which he coolly disregarded in practice. In his speech he said-

"If we have no power to grant the prayer of the petition, why should such a petition be received? And our time thus profitlessly spent might be devoted to useful and national purposes. am not speaking, sir, of a doubtful question-of petitions for measures of doubtful validity, and about which reasonable men may differ, and do differ. These should be respectfully received and considered. But I speak of applications for the exercise of powers which we have clearly and undeniably no right to assume-like this for the dissolution of the Union, or for the annihilation of a State of this Confederacy.

Petitions for measures of doubtful validity ought he says, to be respectfully received and considered The petition, the question of reception of which he voted to lay on the table, asked Congress not to admit any State, or erect any Territory, whose organic law did not exclude slavery. The great majority of the people of this country believes in the validity of such non-action : a minority denies it. Even some of the minority hold that Congress have the power to admit new States or refuse them admission, at its discretion. The first resolution of the series submitted by Mr. Foote, is as

sections, to take proper care of those who should must be regarded by General Cass as coming Their Ability to resist Foreign Aggression.

The Amount and Cost and Results of the Milary Establishment of the Amount and Cost and Results of the Milary Establishment of therefore, on his own principle, he was bound re-

spectfully to receive and consider the petition. But the remark of Mr. Hale, in relation to the Senate generally, applies with special force to General Cass: "the usage is to receive everything from the South, and reject everything from the North, without asking the nature of it?

· For the National Era. SABBATH MORNING.

BY MISS PHEBE CAREY.

Another Sabbath o'er the earth Comes softly down from Eden's bowers And in my spirit I can feel The hallowed influence of its hours.

And now this earnest prayer goes up, That on my lips should ever be-O, God! that I might give, to-day, My heart, and life, and soul, to thee

I, that by prayerful love was brought Almost the fold of life within, And from a Saviour's pleading arms Went backward to a world of sin-

Went back-to feel a deeper shame A threstened reckoning, yet more dread, For all the slighted prayers and tears Poured out upon my guilty head.

Yet, Lord, thy cup of vengeance stay, Hold yet the uplifted hand divine, Till, by repentance at the cross, My stubborn will is bent to thine

Grant that thy trembling steps may be Sat figmly on the Rock of Right. Before thy striving Spirit takes Its upward, everlasting flight.

I fain would hold the angel fast,

Nor still without his blessing go, Since the sweet mercy offered now May be the latest sent below. And should this earthly Sabbath be The last my dving soul may keep,

O, shall another dawn for me,

When the summons breaks my sleep HEARING FROM THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

We published a few weeks ago extracts from newspapers in the districts of Messrs. Duer and Clarke, rebuking them for their votes to lay the resolution of Mr. Root on the table, when it was first introduced.

Mr. Gilmore of Pennsylvania, who pursued a similar course, is thus noticed in the Blairsville

(Pa.) Apalachian of January 23d: OUR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

Messes Editors of the Apalachian:
Less by the last National Fra that Mr. Gilmore, the Representative in Congress from this district, has proved recreant to Democratic prin-ciples and his pledge to the Free Soil men of the district. He voted with the South to lay Mr Root's resolution on the table—it being a test vote on the Wilmot Proviso. As you have supported him and assisted in getting him elected, I think it your duty to call on him for an explanation of his vote on this occasion. He certainly could not have been elected in this district if we had known that he was opposed to the Wilmot Proviso being applied to our free Territories; and I call upon you as honest men to let the Democracy of this district see how Gilmore votes-how he fulfils his

Alexander Irvin took the Southern hook when there was a good fat bait on it, but Gilmore has taken the hook without any bait.

A.

The editor of the Apalachian remarks-Mr. Gilmore's vote in this case, taken in connection with his answer to the interrogatories of the Free Soil committee, when he was a candidate for Congress, places him in an unenviable posi-Justice to himself, as well as his constitu ents, would seem to require some explanation of his reasons for casting a vote so much at variance with the views he expressed previous to the elec-

The explanation, we presume, is to be found in it. General Cass, so prompt in voting against all the fact, that Mr. Buchanan, who wishes to be party, and is looking to slaveholders for success, has been here for several weeks, ones ternal supervision over the Pennsylvania delega tion, striving, we suppose, to persuade them to support his favorite compromise-the extension of the Misoouri line of 360 30' to the Pacific.

POLITICAL CONVENTIONS IN CONNECTICUT.

The Free Soil men of Connecticut, at their re cent State Convention, put in nomination the following ticket:

For Governor, John Boyd; Lieutenant Governor, Julius Clarke; Secretary, Joseph W. White; Treasurer, George Reed; Comptroller, William Alexander.

The Old Line Democrats held their Convention at Middletown yesterday week, and nomi-

nated the following ticket : For Governor, Thomas H. Seymour ; Lieuten-

ant Governor, Charles H. Pond : Secretary, Hiram Weed ; Treasurer, Henry D. Smith ; Comptroller, Rufus G. Pinney. The Democrats at the last election carried the

State* by adopting substantially the creed of the Buffalo platform. They have gone back this time to the "beggarly elements" of old Hunkerism. Their Convention last week refused to give any eqpression of opinion at all on the Slavery Ques-The Whig Convention was to be held yester-

day. We doubt not that it will take strong ground on the subject of slavery, and the result will be the overthrow of the Democratic party. . Or, rather, their candidates for Congress.

MASS CONVENTION IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The Free Soil members of the Legislature of Massachusetts and other leading men of the party have issued a call for a State Mass Convention, to be holden at Faneuil Hall, Wednesday the 27th of February, at 11 o'clock, A. M. The reason assigned for this gathering of the People nduce Congress not to admit any new States into is, the peril in which the cause of Freedom is placed through the faltering of the Whig and Democratic parties. Nothing, they say, can "arrest the triumph of the slave propagandists and save the cause of liberty and humanity but the instant, prompt, and decisive action of the PEOPLE of the free States."

> Massachusetts will not be alone. There will be an uprising of the People in every State, and party organizations will be disregarded. Ohio is already preparing for a similar demonstration, and other States will not be slow to follow. Traitors in Congress may prove false to their constituents, but speedy retribution will overtake

THE WHIGS OF OHIO.

The indications are that the Whigs of Ohio have determined to carry that State at the next election by adopting the faith of the Free-Soilers; and the false position in which the Democracy of Ohio has been placed by its Convention of January 8th will aid them greatly in this policy.

The Whig meeting at Columbia, on the 4th, was called under the auspices of the leading politicians of the party, and was doubtless intended to give an impulse to the party throughout the State. Mr. Auditor Woods addressed the meeting in a long speech, the character of which may be inferred from the following account of it by the Columbus correspondent of the Western Reserve Chronicle:

He began his speech by saying the crisis had come. Every man ought to act, not for party merely, but for principle. He said he disapproved utterly and entirely with the non-intervention doctrine AVOWED BY THE PRESIDENT. He could not submit to the doctrine, that the President ought to govern the vast Territories of this Union, through his military power instead of the civil. Mr. Woods wanted Territorial Governments, so follows:

in the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the majority of that body from voting in obedience to their convictions of duty.

We are far from believing that Southern representatives generally sympathize with these brutal threats; but they should manifest their abhorrence of them otherwise than by silence. Every Northern man of any spirit must regard such menaces with utter contempt. There will always in the Consideration, being held valid by a prayed for by the petition, being held valid by a silence call upon the Southern representatives in the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and by brute force prevent the House, to rise up, and the true principle of the Constitution of the United States may be applied. That the military should always in time of peace be subordinate to the civil power. He said the President's recommendation to Congress, in his message, looked to a SUBVERSION of that grain the true principle of the Constitution of the United States may be applied. That the military should always in time of peace be subordinate to the civil power. He said the President's recommendation to Congress, in his message, looked to a SUBVERSION of that the true principle. Mr. Woods wanted Territorial Governments, so that the true principle of the Constitution of the United State

so far above the paltry principles of party. He DE-MANDED, in the language of the Whig resolutions of 1848, that the territory be free, and that civil and military Governments be a vided for them. That the principles of the Ordinance be at once adopted, and the slave trade, inter-State and in the District, be at once abolished. Such (said Mr. Woods) are the sentiments of the peof Ohio; and they were emphatically his own. of Ohio; and they were emphatically his own, and he wished to act upon them as indispensable

The resolutions adopted were in accordance both to the policy of the President and that of Henry Clay.

BUCHANAN VS. WILMOT.

Mr. Buchanan and his creatures are laboring hard to overthrow Mr. Wilmot, whom they seem to regard as the most formidable obstacle to the hopes of that Presidential aspirant in Pennsylvaarresting the action of its Legislature on the Slavery Question : but, Wilmot still sits in the gate, and nothing can satisfy them till he shall be hung as high as Haman intended to hang Mordecai the Jew. Their hearts' desire will not be fulfilled : Mr. Buchanan is in a fair way to put the rope round his own neck, but Wilmot was never made to be hung by traitors to the cause of Freedom His course in relation to the election of Speaker and Clerk, meets with the approbation of his constituents, who do not seem to have been greatly moved by the maledictions of the amiable and forgiving Forney.

A County Convention of "the party" in Bradford county was held at Towards on the 5th, to elect delegates to the next Democratic State Convention, when resolutions thoroughly approving Mr. Wilmot's course and condemning his assail, ants were passed by a vote of 46 to 5. The following is one of them:

"4. Resolved, That the firmness with which the Hon. D. Wilmot adheres to the principles of the Jeffersonian Ordinance, and the unflinching boldness with which he advocates the preservation of free Territories from the establishment of slavery therein, justly entitles him to the thanks of the Democracy of this county, whose views he reflects."

NEW YORK.

The Empire State has at fast spoken through her Legislature, all the arts of the Hunkers on both sides having been utterly bailled.

The following resolutions originated in the Senate, where they were amended on motion of Mr. Stone, a Democratic Senator, and by the votes of 14 out of 15 Democratic Senators, so as to declare that Congress ought to relieve itself from all responsibility for clavery. This unlendment in the first resolution is indicated by being placed in brackets.

They were then adopted, sent to the Assembly, and referred to a special committee, a majority of which was composed of Democrats. This majority reported, in place of them, a batch of miserable resolutions, which soon found mates in resolutions submitted by Mr. Dex and Mr. Monroe who seemed anxious to have New York back out from the position she had formerly taken. The Whig minority of the committee through Mr. Raymond reported back the Senate resolutions. The second of these was amended at the suggestion of Mr. Root of Herkimer, so as to command the support of himself and Mr. Green, two of the three Democratic members of the special Committee. This amendment, indicated by being enclosed in brackets, adds to the force of the reso-

lutions. These resolutions, as amended, were adopted

last Thursday, as follows: "Resolved, (if the Assembly concur.) [That as the Federal Constitution was formed and adopted expressly to secure the blessings of liberty to the people of the United States, and their posterity; therefore the Federal Government ought to reence or continuance of slavery or the slave trade d, to use their best efforts to procure the passage of laws that will effectually and forever put an end to the slave trade in the District of

Yeas 74; nays 16-all of the nays, but 2, be ng Democratic

" Resolved, (if the Assembly concur.) That the determination indicated in the Governor's mes sages, and the resolutions of various slaveholding States, and by the Representatives of such States in Congress, to extend domestic slavery over the territory sequired by the late treaty of peace with the Republic of Mexico, we feel bound to oppose by all constitutional means; [and conceding constitutional power of Congress to prohibit by positive enactment the extension of slavery into free territory, our Senators in Congress and our sentatives are hereby requested and instructed to use their best efforts to insert such positive prohibition into any law for the Govern-

ment of the Territories in question."] Yeas 70; nays 20-all of the nays Democrats

"Resolved, (if the Assembly concur.) That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to resist firmly and to the utmost of their ability, and by such positive legislation as may be necessary, the extension of human slavery, or the jurisdiction of Texas over any part of New Mexico."

Yeas 65: nays 24-all of the nays Democrats but 2. " Resolved, (if the Assembly concur.) That we have learned with great satisfaction that the peo-ple of California have adopted a Constitution which is entirely in accordance with the spirit of free institutions of our country; and our Sens. tors in Congress are hereby instructed, and our Representatives requested, to aid in the passage of such laws as may be necessary to admit that

Only one negative, and that Democratic -" Resolved, (if the Assembly concur.) That the people of this State are desirous of preserving in-violate the Federal Union—and that they wil strenuously oppose all attempts, from whatever source they may emanate or under whatever pretence they may be made, to effect its dissolution

No opposition. " Resolved, (if the Assembly concur.) That the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolutions to each of the Senators and resentatives of this State in Congress.

No opposition. It is hardly necessary to say that the Democrati oting in the negative were Cass men. The resolutions went back to the Senate, and with the amendment, were concurred in-yeas

26. navs 1. So New York stands erect

State into the Union."

GRAVE CONSIDERATION.

"Had Mr. Clay, in so nobly tendering the olive-branch, been authorized or enabled to speak for the South, his plan would have been entitled sideration on the side of the to the gravest con-North."- New York Tribune. . Recollect-"his plan" proposes to pass more

rigid laws for the reclamation of fugitives from

labor, though they are already denied jury trial

and the habeas corpus; to perpetuate slavery in the District of Columbia indefinitely; and to give Territorial Governments to New Mexico and Deseret without the Wilmot Proviso-precisely what the slaveholders have constantly demanded, and the non-slaveholders as constantly refused. Why, sir, this is the plan which the South has proposed all along. Why have you not taken it into your grave consideration before? Perhaps you may say it differs in this-that it recognises the fact that slavery does not exist now in the Territories by law, and is not likely to be introduced there. No-this is in the resolutions, but is not intended to be incorporated in the bill. If the resolutions be adopted, the declaration will amount to a mere expression of opinion, as to the present condition of the Territories, but will have no binding force against the introduction of slavery. Let the expression of the opinion, that slavery does not exist pression of the opinion, that slavery does not exist in the Territories by law, be inserted in the presmible of a bill for the establishment of Territorial Governments, with this addition—" and cannot exist therein save by positive law," then the plan might be worthy of the grave consideration the Tribuse talks of.

for one I do not hesitate to avow that I will too for any Democrat two is reliable on this question, in preference to a Whig who yields to the temption of the first opportunity. In saying this, I have no doubt I utter the determination of tens of thousands, who, like me, are watching with intense anxiety the developments that are being made at Washington.

FREE COLORED PEOPLE OF LOUISIANA.-The laws of Louisiana respecting the free people of color are more liberal than in any other slaveholding State, or some free States. They constitute a class of citizens whom the law recognises and protects, and whose social position is better than that of free people of color in other see

The New Orleans Picayune of the 17th ultimo contains the report of a case decided by the Suwith these sentiments, and in direct opposition to preme Court of the State, which held that they were competent witnesses in trials of white persons, and also assigned the reason therefor, as follows-Judge King delivering the opinion :

"Our legislation and jurisprudence upon this subject differs materially from those of the slave States generally, in which the rule contended for prevails. This difference of public polic yhas no doubt arisen from the different condition of that class of persons in this State. At the date of our earliest legislation as a Territory, as well as at nia. They have succeeded thus far in getting up, a few pro-slavery meetings in that State, and in a numerous class. In some districts they are rea numerous class. In some districts they are respectable from their intelligence, industry, and habits of good order. Many of them are highly educated, and the instances are by no means rare in which they are large property holders. So far from being in that degraded state which renders them unworthy of belief, they are such persons as courts and juries would not hesitate to believe the persons as courts and juries would not hesitate to believe the persons class in the second of the persons the moreover, this numerous class is Moreover, this numerous class is entitled to the protection of our laws, but that protection would in many cases be illusory, and the greatest offences against their persons and property might be committed with impunity by white persons, if the rule of exclusion contended for were recognised. They are also included in article 2,260 of our Civil Code as competent perons to testify in civil matters.

> A GENEROUS SENTIMENT .- At the late annual neeting in this city of the American Colonization Society, Robert Scott, of Virginia, made a speech, which is reported in the African Repository for February, and from which we extract the following generous sentiment. Mr. Scott is referring to the Government of Liberia: "I am very particular to announce that there

is a feature in that Government that marks it as one of the highest degree of wisdom. It forbids a white man a single foot of soil in Liberia, as I would forbid the black man a single foot of soil in the United States. They have taken care to follow the command of Him who commands all things." That must be a new commandment communicated by special revelation to Mr. Scott, We

think the old revelation is on this wise: that God has made of one blood all men to dwell upon all the face of the earth." The Supreme Court of Louisiana, quoted above, holds very different language from that of this peculiarly benevelent gentleman. When we denied that Mr. Chase was electioneering for Mr. Brown, for the Speakership,

we said that the support of that candidate by the

Free Soil members did not meet with his concur-

rence. A letter from Mr. Durkee, in the Wisconsin Freeman, reminds us that we were partially mistaken, as he did think it proper that the Democratic Free-Soilers should vote for him. That he electionsered for him, however, is a gross falsehood. THE HAMILTON COUNTY CONTROVERSY .- The Hamilton county controversy, which has driven that most enlightened, sober-minded State of the West to the verge of anarchy, was terminated on

ture of a proviso to the apportionment law, as follows: " Provided, That nothing therein contained shall be so construed as to impair any right, privi-leges, or franchises, supposed to be acquired un-der said provisions above repealed."

the 1st instant, by the adoption by the Legisla-

Correction .- It seems that the True Democrat of Cleveland, from which we copied the address of the Summit and Medina delegates concerning the Columbus (O.) Convention, made a mistake ia printing it. The error was transferred to our per, and we are now asked by

exchanges to correct it. The error consisted in stating that the following two resolutions offered in the convention were stricken out : " Resolved. That the services of William Aller

in the councils of the nation, entitle him to the confidence of the American Democracy; and "Resolved, That the Democracy of Ohio deplore his absence from the Senate of the United They were not stricken out, but substituted and

adopted in place of the following resolution, offered by Mr. Bierce of Summit, which was stricken ont by a vote of 147 to 190 . " Resolved, That we approve of the vote give in the United States Senate, by our late Senator William Allen, on the application of the Wilmo

Provise to the Territories; and we recommend to our Senators and Representatives in Congres to engraft the same principles upon all bills for the organization of Territorial Governments." THE BOSTON CHRONOTYPE has ceased to exist. Its talent, wit, and courage, made it a favorite with a large circle of readers. We hope its wor-

thy and independent editor may find a still wider sphere for the exercise of talents that have been devoted to what he believed the best interests of THE DEMOCRATS have called a Convention of the counties of Portage, Summit, and Medins,

Ohio, on the 22d of this month, to consult on measures proper to be taken in view of the State Democratic Convention at Columbus.

HON. ALFRED GILMORE.

WASHINGTON, PA, February 15, 1850. To the Editor of the National Era :

To the Editor of the National Era:

I see that you speak of the district in this State represented by Mr. Alfred Gilmore, as a "proslavery district." Allow me to correct you on that point. His district is composed of the counties of Butler, Armstrong, Indiana, and Clearfield—counties which embrace not only a large number of, but some of the very best antislavery men in the State. Much anti-slavery labor has been expended there, and there is not, probably, a district in the State in which more unanimity prevails in favor of the Wilmot Proviso. If you will turn to the columns of the Eta for 1848, you will find, somewhere during the progress of the Presidential campaign, a let-ter from Mr. Gilmore, in which he pledges himself unreservedly to the support of the Proviso. It would be well to republish that letter, and let

his constituents be prepared to hold him to a reckoning.
I notice with regret that the member from this district, Dr. Reed, did not vote on Mr. Root's resolutions, although in his seat a few minutes afterwards, voting on Giddings's resolution. When it is considered that he is very anxious to sustain the Administration, and the devoted friend of Henry Clay, he will admit, himself, that his not voting on Root's resolution gives room for a ma-picion that he was dodging. I do not charge him with this, but when so many are proving treacherous he must not be surprised to find his constituents desirous of knowing all about such matters He stands pledged to the Proviso beyond all hope of honorable escape, and we are not disposed

release him. The member from Pittsburgh was also absent when the vote on Root's resolution was taken. About the same time, I saw a letter published in the Putsburgh Journal, written from Washington city, in which the writer urges that if the North insists on the Proviso she will lose the Tariff and that to save the Tariff the North ought to

and that to save the Tariff the North ought to give up the Proviso. This letter is written a good deal after the style of Mr. Hampton, the Whig member from Pittsburgh. Is it a feeler, put forth to test the safety of abandoning the Proviso?

This letter in the Journal assumes the ground that slavery cunnot possibly be planted in New Mexico, and thereby it is ussless to insist upon a prohibition of it. I hear, also, that letters have been received here from our member, arguing that slavery cannot, by any chance, be extended to the Territories, and hence it is only exasperating the South to no purpose, to enact the Proviso.

South to no purpose, to enact the Proviso.

These things make me afraid that there is a settled design on the part of the Whig members to give up the Proviso, on the flimsy ground that there is no use for it.

If so, all I ask, is, let them show their hands
fairly, at once. The elections for Congress, in New
York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, come on next fall, and
for one I do not hesitate to avow that I will vote